

Companies Program, a new program within SBA that will fund at least ten venture capital companies dedicated to new markets—low- and moderate-income communities. \$15 million in annual appropriations would support a \$100 million program level for SBA-guaranteed debentures, and \$30 million in matching technical assistance grants.

Title II of the bill basically consists of legislation I introduced last year, and again this year, entitled the Community Development Venture Capital Assistance Act. Last year, the Senate passed this legislation as part of a SBA technical amendments bill. This title is intended to build the capacity of the existing CDVC industry through technical assistance and SBA grants to colleges, universities, and other firms or organizations—public or private—to create and operate training programs, intern programs, a national conference, and academic research and study dealing with community development venture capital.

Title III would build on the BusinessLINC grant program which is a public-private partnership that the SBA and Department of Treasury launched last June. It encourages larger businesses to mentor smaller businesses, promoting the viability of small businesses located in disadvantaged areas.

I think this legislation speaks to the heart of reversing persistent poverty in America by promoting entrepreneurship, and encouraging responsible equity investment. The small business growth sparked by this legislation would in turn create jobs and wealth in those communities which have heretofore been overlooked. It is an absolutely essential addition to the SBA's current program offerings and I urge my colleagues to support it.●

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

● Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, as Co-Chair of the Senate Republican Task Force on Hispanic Affairs, I am pleased to note Hispanic Heritage month which began on September 15. During the month, we will focus on the vibrant Hispanic community that has made tremendous contributions to our nation and to my state of Arizona for many generations.

Projected to soon be the country's largest minority, this colorful and proud community is incredibly rich in culture and diverse in backgrounds. All too often, the various groups that make up "Hispanics" are lumped together and some forget the dynamic differences between Mexicans and Puerto Ricans, or Salvadorans and Chileans, for example. But when Hispanics come together—tied by social and cultural similarities—they form a powerful group to whom we must listen.

Much has been said lately about the Hispanics' burgeoning economic and political power. This group's contribution to the economy is significant. Their buying power has increased at an annual rate of 5.5 percent, far outdistancing inflation. This has resulted in an explosion of Hispanic advertising dollars. According to Hispanic Business Magazine, from 1997 to 1998, ad budgets targeting the Hispanic market jumped 21 percent to \$1.71 billion. And study after study indicate that Hispanic businesses are the fastest growing segment of the small business community.

Politically, Hispanics are becoming a great force. They are voting in ever-larger numbers, projected as high as 5.5 million in the 2000 elections, up from 4.2 million in 1992. Currently, however, only one in every 20 votes is cast by a Hispanic, even though one in nine Americans is Hispanic. Unfortunately, low voter turnout, because of political cynicism, is a trend that is not only affecting the Hispanic community.

It is important that the political voice of Hispanics is not drowned out by money from special interests. When I look down the list of soft money donors to both political parties, I see corporate giants; I see large labor unions; I see the Fortune 500. I don't see the name of my friend Victor Flores, who started a small bakery in the town of Guadalupe, Arizona, and labored hard for years to feed the community and support his family. I don't see Victor's name or, frankly, the majority of Americans who deserve the attention, access and priority representation that only a select few can afford under today's corrupt campaign finance system. I will continue to fight for campaign finance reform, because without it, we will not achieve the other reforms that have a direct bearing on better quality of life for Hispanic Americans and all who make up the great American tapestry.

In today's global economy, education is essential for success. If the Hispanic high school dropout rate remains stubbornly high, resulting in a lack of needed job skills for the 21st century, income gaps will grow and our poverty rates will rise. This is bad for America. We must work harder on these issues.

Knowledge of English is as important as education in order to succeed. However, I will consistently oppose positions that are divisive, such as "English-Only" laws. There is no need to abandon the language of your birth to learn the language of your future. Hispanics should use and cherish both.

Finally, I wish to recognize the outstanding contributions Americans of Hispanic descent have made to our national defense. In 1997, I was pleased to successfully co-sponsor legislation to grant a Federal charter to the American G.I. Forum, the largest association of Hispanic veterans in the United States. I remain terribly proud that

our Armed Forces, in which I was privileged to serve many years ago, today reflect the composition of American society better than any other institution. Hispanic Americans have sacrificed enormously to secure the liberties many of us take for granted today; their service honors all of us.

Hispanic Americans are honest, hard working patriots, who want and deserve the equal opportunity that is our nation's promise. Hispanics have distinguished themselves in every walk of life. This month, let's recognize their contributions that exemplify the American Dream.●

U.S. BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE, FEDERAL OFFSHORE DRILLING ROYALTIES AND THE MCGREGOR RANGE

● Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, at the request of the Honorable Elton Bomer, Secretary of State for Texas, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues House Concurrent Resolutions 2, 59 and 133, as passed by the 76th Legislature of the State of Texas. House Concurrent Resolution 2 urges the United States Congress to provide funding for infrastructure improvements, additional personnel and extended hours of operation at border crossings between Texas and Mexico. In order for all Americans to fully enjoy the economic benefits of trade, we must ensure that the Customs Service obtains the resources necessary to reduce delays, promote commerce and combat illicit drug trafficking. The Senate recently passed the Customs Authorization Act of 1999—largely based on legislation I crafted to facilitate trade along the Southwest border—which authorizes the funds necessary to improve our border infrastructure and stem the flow of illegal drugs into the United States.

Secondly, House Concurrent Resolution 59 urges the United States Congress to pass legislation allocating a portion of federal offshore drilling royalties to coastal states and local communities. I believe coastal states deserve more than the 5 percent of the \$120 billion they helped generate during the past 43 years. States and local communities are more qualified than bureaucrats in Washington to allocate resources to address their specific local needs, and should be given the freedom to do so. By passing this resolution, the Texas Legislature has sent a clear message, and it is time for Congress to act. Common sense invites it, and fairness demands it.

In addition, House Concurrent Resolution 133 supports the United States Congress in ensuring that the critical infrastructure for the United States military defense strategy be maintained by withdrawing from public use the McGregor Range land beyond the year 2001. The Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1986 requires that the

withdrawal from public use of all military land governed by the Army, including the McGregor Range, must be terminated on November 6, 2001, unless the withdrawal is renewed by an Act of Congress. As my colleagues may know, the McGregor Range at Ft. Bliss is America's principal training facility for air defense systems, maintaining our military readiness in air-to-ground combat by providing the highest level of missile defense testing for advanced missile defense systems. Texas has a long and impressive history of supporting America's defense, both at home and on the front lines, and I strongly believe that no state contributes more to the defense of our nation than Texas. I look forward to working to ensure that if the lion and the lamb lie down together in this world, that the United States of America always be the lion.

Mr. President, I commend the Texas Legislature for passing these resolutions and ask that they be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
Austin, TX, August 20, 1999.

Hon. PHIL GRAMM,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR GRAMM: Enclosed is an official copy of Senate Concurrent Resolution 2, as passed by the 76th Legislature, Regular Session, 1999, of the State of Texas, wherein the 76th Legislature of the State of Texas respectfully urges the United States Congress to provide funding for infrastructure improvements, more customs inspection lanes and customs officials, and 24-hour customs operations at border crossings between Texas and Mexico.

The 76th Legislature of the State of Texas requests that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States.

Sincerely,

ELTON BOMER,
Secretary of State.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Whereas, Bottlenecks at customs inspection lanes have contributed to traffic congestion at Texas-Mexico border crossing areas, slowing the flow of commerce and detracting from the economic potential of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); and

Whereas, Smuggling of drugs inside truck parts and cargo containers compounds the problem, necessitating lengthy vehicle searches that put federal customs officials in a crossfire between their mandate to speed the movement of goods and their mandate to reduce the flow of illegal substances; and

Whereas, At the state level, the Texas comptroller of public accounts has released a report titled *Bordering the Future*, recommending among other items that U.S. customs inspection facilities at major international border crossings stay open around the clock; and

Whereas, At the federal level, the U.S. General Accounting Office is conducting a similar study of border commerce and NAFTA issues, and the U.S. Customs Service is working with a private trade entity to review and analyze the relationship between

its inspector numbers and its inspection workload; and

Whereas, Efficiency in the flow of NAFTA commerce requires two federal customs-related funding commitments: (1) improved infrastructure, including additional customs inspection lanes; and (2) a concurrent expansion in customs personnel and customs operating hours; and

Whereas, Section 1119 of the federal Transportation Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), creating the Coordinated Border Infrastructure Program, serves as a funding source for border and infrastructure improvements and regulatory enhancements; and

Whereas, Domestic profits and income increase in tandem with exports and imports, generating federal revenue, some portion of which deserves channeling into the customs activity that supports increased international trade; and

Whereas, Texas legislators and businesses, being close to the situation geographically, are acutely aware of the fixes and upgrades that require attention if NAFTA prosperity is truly to live up to the expectations of this state and nation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 76th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to provide funding for infrastructure improvements, more customs inspection lanes and customs officials, and 24-hour customs operations at border crossings between Texas and Mexico; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
Austin, TX, July 28, 1999.

Hon. PHIL GRAMM,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR GRAMM: Enclosed is an official copy of House Concurrent Resolution 59, as passed by the 76th Legislature, Regular Session, 1999, of the State of Texas. In this resolution the 76th Legislature of the State of Texas urges the United States Congress to pass legislation allocating a portion of federal offshore drilling royalties to coastal states and local communities.

The 76th Legislature of the State of Texas requests that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States.

Sincerely,

ELTON BOMER,
Secretary of State.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 59

Whereas, One of Texas' richest and most diverse areas is that of the Gulf Coast; the Coastal Bend abounds with treasures for all, and every year thousands of visitors flock to its beaches and wetlands to enjoy the sun, fish the waters, appreciate its unique scenery and wildlife, and bolster their spirits simply by being near such awe-inspiring beauty; and

Whereas, In addition to \$7 billion per year generated by coastal tourism, the area is also home to half of the nation's petrochemical industry and over a quarter of its petroleum refining capacity; and

Whereas, Coastal tourism, the petrochemical and petroleum industries, a robust commercial and recreational fishing trade, and significant agricultural production make this region a vital economic and natural resource for both the state and the nation; and

Whereas, Like other coastal states located near offshore drilling activities, Texas provides workers, equipment, and ports of entry for oil and natural gas mined offshore; while these states derive numerous benefits from the offshore drilling industry, they also face great risks, such as coastline degradation and spill disasters, as well as the loss of non-renewable natural resources; and

Whereas, Although state and local authorities have worked diligently to conserve and protect coastal resources, securing the funds needed to maintain air and water quality and to ensure the existence of healthy wetlands and beaches and protection of wildlife is a constant challenge; and

Whereas, The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund was established by Congress in 1964 and has been one of the most successful and far-reaching pieces of conservation and recreation legislation, using as its funding source the revenues from oil and gas activity on the Outer Continental Shelf; and

Whereas, The game and nongame wildlife resources of this state are a vital natural resource and provide enjoyment and other benefits for current and future generations; and

Whereas, The federal government has received more than \$120 billion in offshore drilling revenue during the past 43 years, only five percent of which has been allotted to the states; it is fair and just that Texas and other coastal states should receive a dedicated share of the revenue they help generate; and

Whereas, Several bills are currently before the United States Congress that would allocate a portion of federal offshore drilling royalties to coastal states and local communities for wildlife protection, conservation, and coastal impact projects; and

Whereas, States and local communities know best how to allocate resources to address their needs, and block grants will provide the best means for distributing funds; and

Whereas, These funds would help support the recipients' efforts to renew and maintain their beaches, wetlands, urban waterfronts, parks, public harbors and fishing piers, and other elements of coastal infrastructure that are vital to the quality of life and economic and environmental well-being of these states and local communities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 76th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to pass legislation embodying these principles; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
Austin, TX, July 28, 1999.

Hon. PHIL GRAMM,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR GRAMM: Enclosed is an official copy of House Concurrent Resolution

133, as passed by the 76th Legislature, Regular Session, 1999, of the State of Texas. In this resolution, the 76th Legislature of the State of Texas supports the United States Congress' efforts to ensure that the critical infrastructure for the United States military defense strategy be maintained by withdrawing from public use of the McGregor Range land beyond 2001.

The 76th Legislature of the State of Texas requests that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States.

Sincerely,

ELTON BOMER,
Secretary of State.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 133

Whereas, Future military threats to the United States and its allies may come from technologically advanced rogue states that for the first time are armed with long-range missiles capable of delivering nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons to an increasingly wider range of countries; and

Whereas, The U.S. military strategy requires flexible and strong armed forces that are well-trained, well-equipped, and ready to defend our nation's interests against these devastating weapons of mass destruction; and

Whereas, Previous rounds of military base closures combined with the realignment of the Department of the Army force structure have established Fort Bliss as the Army's Air Defense Artillery Center of Excellence, thus making McGregor Range, which is a part of Fort Bliss, the nation's principal training facility for air defense systems; and

Whereas, McGregor Range is inextricably linked to the advance missile defense testing network that includes Fort Bliss and the White Sands Missile Range, providing, verifying, and maintaining the highest level of missile defense testing for the Patriot, Avenger, Stinger, and other advanced missile defense systems; and

Whereas, The McGregor Range comprises more than half of the Fort Bliss installation land area, and the range and its restricted airspace in conjunction with the White Sands Missile Range, is crucial to the development and testing of the Army Tactical Missile System and the Theater High Altitude Area Defense System; and

Whereas, The high quality and unique training capabilities of the McGregor Range allow the verification of our military readiness in air-to-ground combat, including the Army's only opportunity to test the Patriot missile in live fire, tactical scenarios, as well as execute the "Roving Sands" joint training exercises held annually at Fort Bliss; and

Whereas, The Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1986 requires that the withdrawal from public use of all military land governed by the Army, including McGregor Range, must be terminated on November 6, 2001, unless such withdrawal is renewed by an Act of Congress; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the 76th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby support the U.S. Congress in ensuring that the critical infrastructure for the U.S. military defense strategy be maintained through the renewal of the withdrawal from public use of the McGregor Range land beyond 2001; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be officially

entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.●

NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise to join with Senator SHELBY in supporting the repeal of the provisions in Federal law creating a National ID card. I am pleased that the managers have decided to accept this amendment.

Mr. President, the American people strongly oppose the institution of a national identification card.

And, I share their opposition.

The establishment of a national system of identification seriously threatens our personal liberties. It would allow Federal bureaucrats to monitor movements and transactions of every citizen.

It's Big Brother on an immense scale. It's even possible, perhaps more probable, that Federal officials could even punish innocent citizens for failure to produce the proper papers.

The authority was given for a national I.D. card in Section 656 of the Immigration Reform Act of 1996. That section sets the stage for the establishment of Federal standards for drivers' licenses, thus transforming drivers' licenses into a de facto national ID card.

Let me go through what Section 656 does.

It expands the use and dissemination of the Social Security Account number.

It requires Federal agencies to accept only documents that meet the standards laid out in the section, thus creating a de facto national identification card.

It preempts the traditional state function of issuing driver's licenses and places it in the hands of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

In a time when we are trying to give control back to the states, the establishment of Federal standards for drivers' licenses usurps the states constitutionally-protected authority to set their own standards for drivers' licenses.

Only 7 states require the social security account number to be displayed on driver's licenses. 9 states have repealed their requirement that drivers license display the number since 1992.

The National Conference of State Legislatures is very concerned about the Federalizing of State drivers' licenses and has written letters to Congress calling for the repeal of Section 656. They rightly understand that, although the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration is not proceeding with any rulemaking at this time, the law is still on the books, the potential is still there.

Mr. President, in 1998, the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supple-

mental Appropriations Act, 1999, contained a provision that prohibits the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration from issuing a final rule on National identification cards as required under section 656.

Today we have an opportunity, with my amendment, to prohibit the establishment of a national identification card by denying funding for Section 656.

Mr. President, let me read from a letter that was written by 13 groups in opposition to Section 656 and this national ID system.

This letter is from: The National Conference of State Legislators, the National Association of Counties, the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Concerned Women for America, Eagle Forum, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Free Congress Foundation, National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, National Council of La Raza, National Immigration law Center, Traditional Values Coalition, and the U.S. Catholic Conference.

It is addressed to Speaker HASTERT.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT, We represent a broad-based coalition of state legislators, county officials, public policy groups, civil libertarians, privacy experts, and consumer groups from across the political spectrum.

We urge Congress to repeal Section 656 of the Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibilities Act of 1996 that requires states to collect, verify, and display social security numbers on state-issued driver's license and conform with federally-mandated uniform features for drivers license.

The law preempts state authority over the issuance of state driver's licenses, violates the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1994, and poses a threat to the privacy of citizens. Opposition to the law and the preliminary regulation issued by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has been overwhelmingly evidenced by the more than 2,000 comments submitted by individuals, groups, state legislators, and state agencies to NHTSA.

The law and the proposed regulations run counter to devolution. The law preempts the traditional state function of issuing driver's licenses and places it in the hands of officials at NHTSA while imposing tremendous costs on the states that have been vastly underestimated in the Preliminary Regulatory Evaluation.

The actual cost of compliance with the law and the regulation far exceeds the \$100 million threshold established by the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act.

In addition, the law and proposed regulation require states to conform their drivers' licenses and other identity documents to a detailed federal standard.

Proposals for a National ID have been consistently rejected in the United States as an infringement of personal liberty.

The law raises a number of privacy and civil rights concerns relating to the expanded use and dissemination of the Social Security Number, the creation of a National ID Card, the potential discriminatory use of such a card, and the violation of federal rules on privacy.

The law and proposed rule require each license contain either in visual or electronic form the individual's Social Security Number unless the state goes through burdensome and invasive procedures to check each